

*Public Lecture*  
Ritual Performance as Means of  
Resistance

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*School of Arts & Aesthetics, JNU*

*Abstract*

While "ritual" as a mode of action more often than not is perceived as static or, at best, as an instrument reinforcing existing hierarchies, this presentation will show how ritual performance can equally be a site of resistance and subversion. The examples are public temple rituals performed in the South Indian temple town Kanchipuram (TN), specifically in the Vaiṣṇava Varadarāja Perumāḷ temple and the Śaiva Ekāmbareśvara temple.